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Case Docket No. PHN 17,674

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, Washington, D.C. 20231

Enclosed for filing is the patent application of Inventor(s):

ROELAND PIETER DE BRUIJNE
For: ELECTRONIC DEVICE

jc806 U.S. PTO



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jc806 U.S. PTO
09/671914
09/28/00

ENCLOSED ARE:

- Associate Power of Attorney; 09/28/00
 Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449 and copies of documents listed therein;
 Preliminary Amendment;
 Specification (7 Pages of Specification, Claims, & Abstract);
 Declaration and Power of Attorney:
(1 Pages of a []fully executed unsigned Declaration);
 Drawing (1 sheet of []informal formal sheets);
 Certified copy of GERMAN application Serial No. 19946818.4;
 Other: CITATION OF RELATED CASES;
 Other: AUTHORIZATION PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.136(a)(3);
 Assignment to *

FEE COMPUTATION

CLAIMS AS FILED				
FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	BASIC FEE -
Total Claims	4 - 20 = 0		X \$18 =	0.00
Independent Claims	1 - 3 = 0		X \$78 =	0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims, if any			\$260 =	0.00
TOTAL FILING FEE			=	\$690.00

Please charge Deposit Account No. 14-1270 in the amount of the total filing fee indicated above, plus any deficiencies. The Commissioner is also hereby authorized to charge any other fees which may be required, except the issue fee, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 14-1270.

[] Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence: This is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. , filed

Michael E. Belk
MICHAEL E. BELK, Reg. No. 33,357,
Attorney
(914) 333-9643

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Express Mail Mailing Label No. EL4458218400

Date of Deposit 9/28/00

I hereby certify that this paper and fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231

Steven Witte *Steven Witte*
Name Signature

Send correspondence and papers to Corporate Patent Counsel
U.S. Philips Corporation, 580 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, New York 10591

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Atty. Docket

ROELAND PIETER DE BRUIJNE

PHN 17,674

10836 U.S. PRO
09/671914
03/28/00

Filed: CONCURRENTLY

ELECTRONIC DEVICE

Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

AUTHORIZATION PURSUANT TO 37 CFR §1.136(a)(3)
AND TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Sir:

The Commissioner is hereby requested and authorized to treat any concurrent or future reply in this application requiring a petition for extension of time for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time.

Please charge any additional fees which may now or in the future be required in this application, including extension of time fees, but excluding the issue fee unless explicitly requested to do so, and credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

By Michael E. Belk
MICHAEL E. BELK, Reg. 33,357
Attorney
(914) 333-9643

Electronic device

The invention relates to an electronic device with an optical unit for reading information stored on an information plate and for writing information on an information plate.

Such a device is known, for example, from the Philips CD Recorder CDR765.

- 5 This known device comprises two complete drive units. To copy information from a first information plate onto a second information plate, the information is read out from the first information plate by means of the one drive unit and written on the second information plate by means of the second drive unit in the known device. The known device is comparatively expensive because of the two complete drive units which each comprise a turntable 1, a
10 turntable drive, and an optical laser unit.

The information plates referred to are optical storage discs, in particular Compact Discs (CD), Compact Discs Recordable (CDR), Compact Discs Rewritable (CD-RW), Digital Video Discs (DVD), Video CD (VCD), Super Video CD (SVCD), DVD-R, DVD-RAM, and DVD R/W.

- 15 It is an object of the invention to provide an inexpensive device of the kind mentioned in the opening paragraph which renders possible copying of information from one information plate to another information plate.

According to the invention, this object is achieved in that the electronic device comprises a transport mechanism for the transport of at least two information plates between a storage position and a playing position provided both for reading and for writing, in that a memory unit is provided for the intermediate storage of information, and in that an alternate transport of the first and of the second information plate between the playing position and the respective storage position is provided for the purpose of copying information from a first information plate to a second information plate, such that alternately in a first time interval a
20 read-out of information from the first information plate and an intermediate storage of this read-out information in the memory unit are carried out, and in a second time interval the information stored in said memory unit is written onto the second information plate.
25

The device according to the invention represents an inexpensive solution because only a single drive unit is required. The transport mechanism for transporting the

information plates between the playing position and the storage positions can be realized in a simple and inexpensive manner.

In particular, the device may at the same time be operated as a normal

CD/DVD/VCD changer for the alternate playback of two or more information plates. The

- 5 storage positions referred to are positions of the information plate which are not provided for the playback or writing of the information plates. The information plates which are not required for playback and/or writing at any moment are shunted into the storage positions and are transported from the storage positions into the playing position when required for reading or writing.

10 The transport mechanism for the information plates may be realized in a wide variety of manners. In particular, sliding members, transport belts, or rollers acting on the plate edge may be used for the transport of the information plates. A further advantageous possibility for transporting the information plates is formed by movable storage compartments.

15 In particular, constructions known from CD changers may be used for the transport mechanism.

A further advantageous changer construction is found in carrousel changers which comprise in particular storage compartments (trays) arranged in a circle. The carrousel is rotated for playing or writing an information plate, and the desired information plate is located above the turntable of the optical unit. A clamping mechanism then lifts the information plate from the storage compartment and drives it into rotation for the purpose of reading or writing.

In the advantageous embodiment of the invention as defined in claim 2, the electronic device is a video recorder for the playback of video information stored on information plates. Video recorders often already have a data storage unit of high memory capacity so as to enable a simultaneous recording and playback operation. This memory unit already present may advantageously also serve for the intermediate storage of the data during copying of the information plates.

Particularly suitable information plates for the storage of video information are

- 30 Digital Video Discs (DVD), Video CDs (VCD), Super Video CDs (SVCD), DVD-Rs, DVD-RAMs, and DVD R/Ws. The data are stored in sectors, each having a sector header, on such information plates. It is possible in a particularly simple manner by means of the sector headers to position the optical unit, i.e. the laser, in the desired writing or reading position.

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In the advantageous embodiment of the invention as defined in claim 3, the electronic device is an audio disc recorder.

Audio disc recorders are often already fitted with a changer mechanism for the alternate playback of information plates. It is possible to realize an inexpensive audio disc recorder with a copying function by means of an additional memory unit for the intermediate storage of information.

In the advantageous embodiment of the invention as defined in claim 4, a multiple copy of an information plate is manufactured within one copying cycle, i.e. within the alternate writing and reading cycle. For example, if a first information plate is the
10 information plate to be copied, and a second and a third information plate are to be inscribed with the information to be copied from the first information plate, then part of the information stored on the first information plate is first read out in a first time interval and written into the memory unit. Then, in a second time interval, the information stored in the memory unit is written onto the second information plate, and in a third time interval the
15 information stored in the memory unit is written onto the third information plate.

This cycle is repeated as often as is necessary.

An embodiment of the invention will now be explained in more detail below
20 with reference to the drawing comprising Figs. 1a to 1d, in which:

Fig. 1a is a diagrammatic representation of an electronic device with an optical unit for reading information stored on an information plate and for writing information onto an information plate, in which a first information plate is in a playing position and a second information plate is in a storage position in a storage magazine.

25 Fig. 1b shows the electronic device of Fig. 1a, with the first information plate having been transported from the playing position into a transfer position within the storage magazine,

Fig. 1c shows the electronic device of Fig. 1b, in which the storage magazine has been moved vertically upwards, while the second information plate is in the transfer position, and

Fig. 1d shows the electronic device of Fig. 1c, where the second information plate has been transported from the transfer position into the playing position.

Figs. 1 to 1d diagrammatically show the time sequence of a copying process of information stored on a first information plate 4 onto a second information plate 6.

The electronic device of Fig. 1a comprises a housing 1. A storage compartment 2 is arranged in the housing 1 and is movable in the vertical Z-direction by means of a first transport mechanism which is not shown in any detail. The first transport mechanism for the storage compartment may be realized, for example, by means of a rotatable spindle. Such a transport mechanism is described in detail, for example, in DE 4404006 A1. The storage magazine 2 comprises a first storage compartment 3 for the first information plate 4 and a second storage compartment 5 for the second information plate 6. An optical unit 7 and a turntable motor 8 are provided for playing and writing the information plates. The optical unit 7 and the turntable motor 8 are coupled to a control circuit 9. The control circuit 9 is further coupled to a memory unit 10.

The control circuit 9 is designed for controlling the turntable motor 8, the optical unit 7, and the memory unit 10.

In Fig. 1a, the first information plate 4 is in a playing position on a turntable (not shown in any detail) associated with the turntable motor 8 and is driven into rotation by the latter. The storage magazine 2 is vertically positioned such that the first storage compartment 3 is in a transfer position, and the second storage compartment 5 with the second information plate 6 is in a storage position. The transfer position is that position in which the respective storage compartment is approximately at the same vertical level as the turntable of the turntable motor 8, so that a substantially horizontal transport of the respective information plate between the playing position and the transfer position is possible by means of a second transport mechanism which is not shown in any detail.

The second transport mechanism may be realized by means of various transport mechanisms which are not shown in detail. A particularly simple possibility is formed by sliding members which are movable in the X-direction and which press against the plate edge of the information plate which is to be transported.

A programmable quantity of data is read out from the first information plate 4 present in the playing position and put in intermediate storage in the memory unit 10 by means of the optical unit 7 in a first time interval. The quantity of data which can be read out is limited by the memory capacity of the memory unit 10.

In Fig. 1b, the storage magazine 2 is in the same position as in Fig. 1c, i.e. the first storage compartment 3 is in the transfer position. The first information plate 4 is now in the first storage compartment 3 of the storage magazine 4. The second transport mechanism,

which is not shown in any detail, is provided for the transport of the information plate 4 from the playing position shown in Fig. 1a to the transfer position shown in Fig. 1b.

In Fig. 1c, the storage magazine 2 has been vertically shifted upwards, in the positive Z-direction, by means of the first transport mechanism, so that the second storage compartment 5, in which the second information plate 6 is present, is in the transfer position now. The first storage compartment 3 with the first information plate 4 is in a storage position.

In Fig. 1d, the storage magazine 2 is again in the same position as in Fig. 1c, i.e. the second storage compartment 5 is in the transfer position. The second information plate 6 has been transported from the transfer position into the playing position by the second transport mechanism and accordingly lies on the turntable (not shown) of the turntable motor 8.

The information stored in the memory unit 10 is read out from the memory unit 10, controlled by the control circuit 9, and written onto the second information plate 6 by the optical unit 7.

The copying process shown in Figs. 1a to 1d may be repeated as often as desired, so that the total quantity of data stored on the first information plate 4 can be copied onto the second information plate 6. The number of repetitions of the cycle shown in Figs. 1a to 1d necessary for a complete copying depends in particular on the memory capacity of the memory unit 10.

The storage magazine 2 may preferably also be designed for holding three or more information plates. Such a device renders possible not only the copying function described above but also an alternating playback of the information plates. It is in addition possible to manufacture a plurality of copies of an information plate during one copying cycle.

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CLAIMS:

1. An electronic device with an optical unit (7) for reading information stored on an information plate (4,6) and for writing information on an information plate (4,6), characterized in that the electronic device comprises a transport mechanism for the transport of at least two information plates (4,6) between a storage position and a playing position

5 provided both for reading and for writing, in that a memory unit (10) is provided for the intermediate storage of information, and in that an alternate transport of the first (4) and of the second information plate (6) between the playing position and the respective storage position is provided for the purpose of copying information from a first information plate (4) to a second information plate (6), such that alternately in a first time interval a read-out of information from the first information plate (4) and an intermediate storage of this read-out information in the memory unit (10) are carried out, and in a second time interval the information stored in said memory unit (10) is written onto the second information plate (6).

10 2. An electronic device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the electronic device is a video recorder for the playback and/or writing of information carriers on which video data are stored, in particular information carriers in accordance with the DVD standard, the VCD standard, the SVCD standard, the DVD-R standard, the DVD-RAM standard, and the DVD R/W standard.

15 3. An electronic device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the electronic device is an audio recorder for the playback and/or writing of information carriers on which audio data are stored, in particular information carriers in accordance with CD-R or CD-RW standard.

20 4. An electronic device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the electronic device is designed for the transport of at least three information plates (4,6) between the storage positions and the playing position, and in that the device is designed for the manufacture of a plurality of copies of an information plate (4,6) to be copied within one copying cycle.

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ABSTRACT:

The invention relates to an electronic device with an optical unit for reading information stored on an information plate and for writing information on an information plate.

The invention is characterized in that the electronic device comprises a transport mechanism for the transport of at least two information plates between a storage position and a playing position provided both for reading and for writing, in that a memory unit is provided for the intermediate storage of information, and in that an alternate transport of the first and of the second information plate between the playing position and the respective storage position is provided for the purpose of copying information from a first information plate to a second information plate, such that alternately in a first time interval a read-out of information from the first information plate and an intermediate storage of this read-out information in the memory unit are carried out, and in a second time interval the information stored in said memory unit is written onto the second information plate.

15 Fig. 1a

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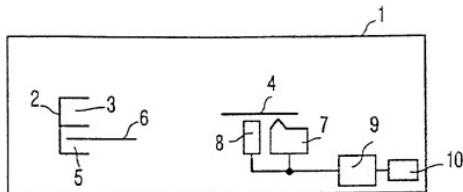


FIG. 1A

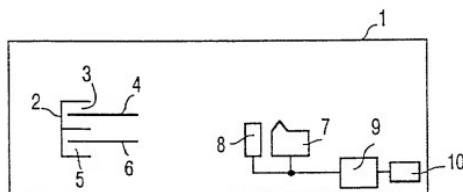


FIG. 1B

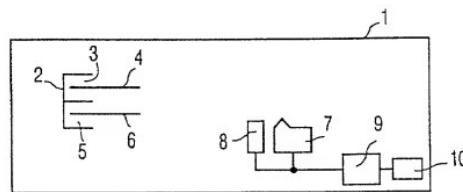


FIG. 1C

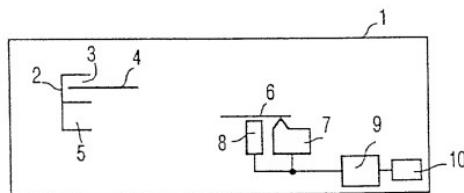


FIG. 1D

DECLARATION and POWER OF ATTORNEY

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO.:
PHN 17.674

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

"Electronic device"

the specification of which (check one)

is attached hereto.

was filed on _____ as Application Serial No. _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by the amendment(s) referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

COUNTRY	APP. NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (DATE, MONTH, YEAR)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119
Germany	19946818.4	30 September 1999	YES

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35 United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

PRIOR UNITED STATES APPLICATION(S)

APPLICATION SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	STATUS (PATENTED, PENDING, ABANDONED)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.



POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (list name and registration number)

Jack E. Haken, Reg. No. 26,902

Michael E. Marion, Reg. No. 34,266

Edward M. Blocker, Reg. No. 30,245

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO: Corporate Patent Counsel; U.S. Philips Corporation, 580 white Plains Road; Tarrytown, NY 10591	DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO: (name and telephone No.) (914) 332-0222
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Dated:	Inventor's Signature:		
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Full Name of Inventor	Last Name DE BRUIJNE	First Name Roeland	Middle Name Pieter
Residence & Citizenship	City Eindhoven	State of Foreign Country The Netherlands	Country of Citizenship The Netherlands
Post Office Address	Street Prof. Holstlaan 6	City 5656 AA Eindhoven	State of Country The Netherlands Zip Code

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Atty. Docket

ROELAND PIETER DE BRUIJNE

PHN 17,674

Filed: CONCURRENTLY

ELECTRONIC DEVICE

Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

APPOINTMENT OF ASSOCIATES

Sir:

The undersigned Attorney of Record hereby revokes all prior appointments (if any) of Associate Attorney(s) or Agent(s) in the above-captioned case and appoints:

MICHAEL E. BELK

(Registration No. 33,357)

c/o U.S. PHILIPS CORPORATION, Intellectual Property Department, 580 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, New York 10591, his Associate Attorney(s)/Agent(s) with all the usual powers to prosecute the above-identified application and any division or continuation thereof, to make alterations and amendments therein, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE CONCERNING THIS APPLICATION AND THE LETTERS PATENT WHEN GRANTED SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE UNDERSIGNED ATTORNEY OF RECORD.

Respectfully,



— Michael E. Marion, Reg. 32,266
Attorney of Record

Dated at Tarrytown, New York
on September 26, 2000.